

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A physical layer for an inline power device of a network power system, the physical layer comprising:

an inline power control signal source originating from the physical layer, wherein the inline power control signal is configured to indicate when to apply power to a port when there is no power applied to the port and when to remove power from the port when there is power applied to the port.

2. (Currently amended) A power source equipment of a network power system, the power source equipment comprising:

at least one physical layer including:

an inline power control signal source originating from the physical layer, wherein the inline power control signal is configured to indicate when to apply power to a port when there is no power applied to the port and when to remove power from the port when there is power applied to the port.

3. (Original) The power source equipment as defined in claim 2, further comprising signal processing of the inline power control signal, wherein the signal processing is external to the at least one physical layer.

4. (Currently amended) A method of inline power for a network power system, the method comprising:

sourcing an inline power control signal from a physical layer, wherein the inline power control signal originating from the physical layer is configured to indicate when to apply power to a port when there is no power applied to the port and when to remove power from the port when there is power applied to the port.

5. (Currently amended) An apparatus for inline power for a network power system, the apparatus comprising:

a physical layer; and

means for sourcing an inline power control signal originating from the physical layer, wherein the inline power control signal is configured to indicate when to apply power to a port when there is no power applied to the port and when to remove power from the port when there is power applied to the port.

6. (Currently amended) A physical layer for an inline power device of a network power system, the physical layer comprising:

an inline power control signal source originating from the physical layer, wherein the inline power control signal is configured to indicate when to apply power to a port when there is no power applied to the port and when to remove power from the port when there is power applied to the port.

7. (Currently amended) A power source equipment of a network power system, the power source equipment comprising:

at least one physical layer including:

an inline power control signal source originating from the physical layer, wherein the inline power control signal is configured to indicate when to apply power to a port when there is no power applied to the port and when to remove power from the port when there is power applied to the port.

8. (Previously Presented) The power source equipment as defined in claim 7, further comprising a signal processor configured to process the inline power control signal, wherein the signal processing is external to the at least one physical layer.

9. (Currently amended) A method of inline power for a network power system, the method comprising:

sourcing an inline power control signal originating from a physical layer, wherein the inline power control signal is configured to indicate when to apply power to a port when there is no power applied to the port and when to remove power from the port when there is power applied to the port.

10. (Currently amended) An apparatus for inline power for a network power system, the apparatus comprising:

a physical layer; and

means for sourcing an inline power control signal originating from the physical layer, wherein the inline power control signal is configured to indicate when to apply power to a port when there is no power applied to the port and when to remove power from the port when there is power applied to the port.

11. (Currently amended) A network switch for a network power system, the switch comprising:

at least one physical layer including:

an inline power control signal source originating from the physical layer, wherein the inline power control signal is configured to indicate when to apply power to a port when there is no power applied to the port and when to remove power from the port when there is power applied to the port.

12. (Original) The switch as defined in claim 11, further comprising signal processing of the inline power control signal, wherein the signal processing is external to the at least one physical layer.

13. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

one or more inline power devices;

one or more powered devices coupled to an inline power device, each of the one or more inline power devices and each of the one or more powered devices having at least one port, each port having a physical layer, the physical layer including an inline power control signal source wherein an inline power control signal source originating from the ~~inline power control signal source of the~~ physical layer controls application of power to the port.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the inline power devices are power source equipment.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 further comprising:
a signal processor external to the physical layers to process the inline power
control signal.